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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/601,643	06/24/2003	Mutsuko Hatano	NITT.0142	1270
38327 7590 09/20/2007 REED SMITH LLP 3110 FAIRVIEW PARK DRIVE, SUITE 1400 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22042			EXAMINER MOON, SEOKYUN	
			ART UNIT 2629	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/20/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/601,643

Applicant(s)

HATANO ET AL.

Examiner

Seokyun Moon

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 August 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10 and 11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. The Applicants' arguments with respect to claims 1-8, 10, and 11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1-8 and 11** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaise et al. (US 6,483,495), Yamazaki et al. (US 7,173,282), and further in view of Yamada (US 2002/0158298).

As to **claim 1**, Kaise [fig. 1a] teaches an image display device ("*active matrix type liquid crystal display device 100*") having an active matrix substrate ("*base substrate 110*") provided with a pixel region ("*display region 140*") [col. 6 lines 3-10] having a plurality of pixels arranged in a matrix configuration [fig. 2a], and a drive circuit region ("*drive circuitry region 150*") disposed outside of the pixel region for supplying drive signals to the plurality of pixels via interconnection lines ("*scanning lines 112*" and "*data signal lines 113*") [fig. 2b] [col. 6 lines 58-61], wherein the driver circuit region ("*drive circuitry region 150*") [fig. 2a] comprises a plurality of stages of circuit sections ("*shift register circuit 131*", "*buffer circuit 132*", and "*sample holding circuit 133*") successively processing an externally supplied display signal (the signal inputted to the "*shift register circuit 131*") to produce a drive signal (the signal outputted from the "*sample holding circuit 133*") to be supplied to the pixel region ("*display region 140*"), each of the plurality of stages of circuit sections having a different function [col. 7 lines 50-67], at least

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one of the plurality of stages of circuit sections ("*shift register circuit 131*", "*buffer circuit 132*", and "*sample holding circuit 133*") is provided with active elements [col. 7 lines 60-62].

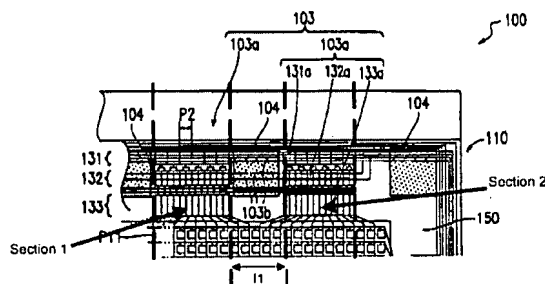
Kaise does not expressly teach the active elements being fabricated in discontinuous converted regions formed of roughly-band-shaped-crystal silicon films having grain boundaries, wherein each of the grain boundaries is continuous in generally one direction and having a direction of movement of carriers therein in a direction of the grain boundaries.

However, Yamazaki et al. (US 7,173,282) teaches a TFT (which is an active element) being fabricated in discontinuous (the active elements are fabricated on a crystal silicon film having a limited size, and thus the crystal silicon film must be discontinuous at the boundaries) converted regions (the area converted through the steps/methods shown on figs. 1a-1d) formed of roughly-band-shaped-crystal silicon films [fig. 9b] having grain boundaries, wherein each of the grain boundaries is continuous in generally one direction and having a direction of movement of carriers therein in a direction of the grain boundaries [col. 2 lines 27-36 and col. 8 lines 13-16].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to fabricate the active elements of the display device of Kaise in discontinuous converted regions formed of roughly-band-shaped-crystal silicon films having grain boundaries, wherein each of the grain boundaries is continuous in generally one direction and having a direction of movement of carriers therein in a direction of the grain boundaries, as taught by Yamazaki, in order to allow the active elements of the display device to have superior characteristics in terms of carrier movement [col. 8 lines 13-16].

Kaise as modified by Yamazaki does not expressly disclose the active elements in the pixel region and the active elements in the drive circuit region being formed of a portion of a polysilicon film which are formed over a substantially entire area of a substrate of the image display device.

As to **claim 2**, Kaise [fig. 2a] teaches that the circuit sections ("*section 1*" and "*section 2*" shown on drawing 1 of this office action, which is equivalent to fig. 2a of Kaise) of each of the plurality of stages ("*shift register circuit 131*", "*buffer circuit 132*", and "*sample holding circuit 133*") are arranged along one side (upper side) of the active matrix substrate ("*base substrate 110*") at specified intervals ("*11*" shown on drawing 1) at a periphery thereof.

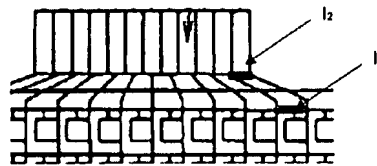


Drawing 1

As to **claim 3**, Kaise [fig. 2a] teaches that circuit sections ("*sample holding circuit 133*") having the active elements formed therein are in a final output stage of the plurality of stages ("*shift register circuit 131*", "*buffer circuit 132*", and "*sample holding circuit 133*") [col. 7 lines 60-62], and

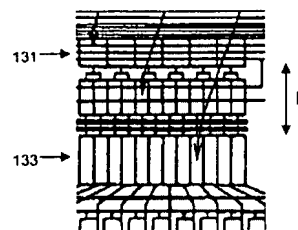
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the interconnection lines coupling the final output stage to the plurality of pixels are arranged at wider intervals on a pixel-region side thereof than a final-output-stage side thereof [drawing 2 provided below, which is equivalent to fig. 2a of Kaise: $I_2 < I_4$].



Drawing 2

As to **claim 4**, Kaise [fig. 2A] teaches that the circuit sections ("*shift register circuit 131*" and "*sample holding circuit 133*") having the active elements formed therein are arranged in two or more parallel rows along one side of the active matrix substrate at specified intervals (" I_5 ") at a periphery thereof [drawing 3 provided below, which is equivalent to fig. 2a of Kaise] [col. 2 lines 64-67].



Drawing 3

As to **claim 5**, Kaise [fig. 1b] teaches the active elements (the switching elements included in the "*sample holding circuit 133*" which is included in "*data driver 103*") [col. 7 lines 51-54 and lines 60-62] being arranged along two opposed sides of the active matrix substrate ("*base substrate 110*") at specified intervals at peripheries thereof [drawing 1 provided on page 5 of this Office Action].

As to **claim 6**, Kaise as modified by Yamazaki and Yamada does not expressly disclose that areas of the circuit sections having the active elements formed therein vary with a scale thereof.

However, Examiner takes official notice that it is well known in the art at the time of the invention to increase the size of the circuit sections included in the driving circuitry of a display to provide driving signals for greater number of pixels when the size of the display is increased.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the areas of the circuit section of Kaise as modified by Yamazaki and Yamada to be varied with a scale to accommodate the change on the number of pixels to drive when the size of the display changes.

As to **claim 7**, all of the claim limitations have already been discussed with respect to the rejection of claim 4 except for the circuit sections in one of the two or more rows being offset in longitudinal directions.

Kaise [fig. 2a] teaches that the circuit sections ("*sample holding circuit 133*") in one of the two or more rows ("*shift register circuit 131*" and "*sample holding circuit 133*") are offset in longitudinal directions thereof from the circuit sections in an adjacent one of the two or more rows.

As to **claim 8**, all of the claim limitations have already been discussed with respect to the rejection of claim 7 since the active elements are included in the circuit sections.

As to **claim 11**, Kaise as modified by Yamazaki and Yamada teaches each of the pixels comprising a liquid crystal layer.

Kaise as modified by Yamazaki and Yamada does not teach each of the pixels comprising an organic EL layer.

However, since the Applicants have failed to disclose specifying the type of the image display device as an organic EL display, i.e. including an organic EL layer in each of the pixels, provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a state problem, it is an obvious matter of design choice to specify the type of the image display device as an organic EL display.

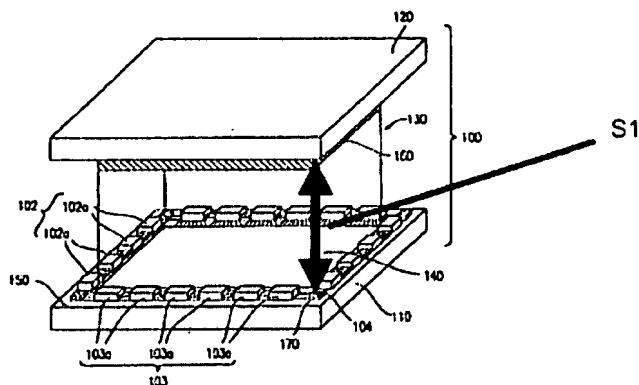
Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

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invention to specify the type of the image display device as any one of a LCD or EL display since any one of the displays having the structure or implementation of the active elements as disclosed would perform equally well at providing superior characteristics in terms of carrier movement.

4. **Claim 10** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaise, Yamazaki, Yamada as applied to claims 1-8 and 11 above, and further in view of Koma (US 6,490,013).

Kaise [fig. 1a] teaches an image display device ("*liquid crystal display device 100*") comprising a liquid crystal layer ("*130*"), wherein the liquid crystal layer is sandwiched between the active matrix substrate ("*base substrate 110*") and a counter substrate ("*120*") superposed on the active matrix substrate with a specified spacing ("*S1*" shown on drawing 4 below, which is equivalent to fig. 1a of Kaise) therebetween.



Drawing 4

Kaise as modified by Yamazaki and Yamada does not expressly disclose having a color filter substrate.

However, Koma teaches a liquid crystal display device having a color filter ("*color filter 38*") [fig. 2] being formed on a counter substrate ("*opposing substrate 30*") [col. 5 lines 8-10].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement a color filter on the counter substrate of the image display device of Kaise as modified by

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Yamazaki and Yamada, as taught by Koma, in order to produce adequate colors for each of the plural pixels and thus to provide adequate colors for the images to be displayed on the display device.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Seokyun Moon whose telephone number is (571) 272-5552. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri (8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sumati Lefkowitz can be reached on (572) 272-3638. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

September 11, 2007

- s.m.



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